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VIEWS

OF

BIRMINGHAM

ALABAMA

WITH A GLIMPSE AT SOME OF

THE NATURAL RESOURCES

OF THE

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

AND THE INDUSTRIES BASED
THEREON

PUBLISHED BY

ISIDORE NEWMAN & SON

BANKERS

NEW YORK NEW ORLEANS

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ISIDORE NEWMAN & SON.

PHOTOGRAPH OF DRAWING OF BIRMINGHAM'S NEW UNION PASSENGER STATION
NOW NEARING COMPLETION

BIRMINGHAM

THIS book is designed to give a graphic view of prominent features of the City of Birmingham as it appears to-day. The city has been named the Magic City, and to one who sees what has been accomplished there within a very short period and is not informed about its resources, the growth seems almost magical.

In the cover design the artist shows, however, the tangible, underlying cause of the wonderful growth of the City of Birmingham, which may be seen in the three natural elements so fortunately placed together within a limited area, as if Nature herself had designed to found a City on Steel. Nowhere else in the world are the three elements, coal, iron ore, and limestone, which are the ingredients necessary to make iron, found in such close proximity. The products of these elements are shown as the basis of the Steel Mills and arising from the mills one sees the present finished product — the City of Birmingham.

The Birmingham District has a population of 150,000, comprises about 100 square miles, and includes, besides Birmingham City proper, twenty-five other cities and villages and twelve well-populated sections not incorporated. Birmingham (city proper) covers six and three-fourths square miles.

Birmingham is a city of home-owners. There are a number of residential sections which, for originality and beauty of architecture, vie with the best in the land. As an evidence of Birmingham's growth, it can be cited that more than 16,000 homes have been built within the city limits and vicinity since the census of 1900.

Birmingham has the best sanitary sewerage in the South, built at a cost of $500,000. One sewer is fourteen and three-fourths miles, another twelve miles long. It has twelve parks, with an area of 200 acres, and fifty-six miles of macadamized streets; an inexhaustible water supply, adequate for a city of 1,000,000 population, the water being unsurpassed as to purity by that of any other city. It has ninety churches and a most excellent public school system with a new $200,000 high school, at which manual training is given. It has Howard College and Birmingham College, Birmingham Seminary, Pollock-Stephens Institute, Birmingham Medical College and Birmingham Dental College, and two hospitals.

Birmingham has a splendid climate, an open season throughout the year. The past twelve months the temperature has averaged 46.5° for winter, 65° for spring, 80.5° for summer, and 66° for fall.

Birmingham is destined to be the greatest of the Southern cities. Her geographical location in the cotton belt, in a rich agricultural section, an important center for the distribution of timber, and in the center of the most wonderful mineral region in the world, with every blessing of soil and climate that man could desire, foretell her advent as the metropolis of the South.

CORNER OF THIRD AVENUE AND 19TH STREET

THIRD AVENUE AT NIGHT

19TH STREET NORTH FROM FIRST AVENUE

SOUTH 20TH STREET HILL, LOOKING NORTH

CITY HALL, FOURTH AVENUE AND 19TH STREET

U. S. POST-OFFICE AND FEDERAL BUILDING, SECOND AVENUE AND 18TH STREET

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, THIRD AVENUE AND 21ST STREET

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, SECOND AVENUE AND 20TH STREET

BROWN-MARX BUILDING, FIRST AVENUE AND 20TH STREET

HOTEL HILLMAN, FOURTH AVENUE AND 19TH STREET

MORRIS HOTEL, FIRST AVENUE AND 19TH STREET

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL, 27TH STREET AND AVENUE I

MASONIC TEMPLE, SIXTH AVENUE AND 19TH STREET

HILLMAN HOSPITAL, 20TH STREET AND AVENUE F

BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ON THE HIGHLANDS

POWELL SCHOOL, SIXTH AVENUE AND 24TH STREET

BIRMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL, SEVENTH AVENUE AND 24TH STREET

ORPHANS' HOME, EAST LAKE, ALA.

SOUTHERN AND ATHLETIC CLUBS, FIFTH AVENUE AND 20TH STREET

COUNTRY CLUB, LAKEVIEW, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

U. S. WEATHER BUREAU STATION, ALTA AVENUE AND LAWN STREET

BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS — SHADES MOUNTAIN FILTRATION PLANT

RESIDENCE OF WALTER PERCY, HIGHLAND AVENUE AND BEECH STREET

RESIDENCE OF F. Y. ANDERSON, SYCAMORE ST., SOUTH HIGHLANDS

RESIDENCE OF R. W. MASSEY, BEECH STREET AND TIMMONS AVENUE

RESIDENCE OF W. J. RUSHTON, IROQUOIS STREET AND HIGHLAND AVENUE

RESIDENCE OF W. P. G. HARDING, GLEN IRIS PARK

RESIDENCE OF ROBT. JEMISON, GLEN IRIS PARK

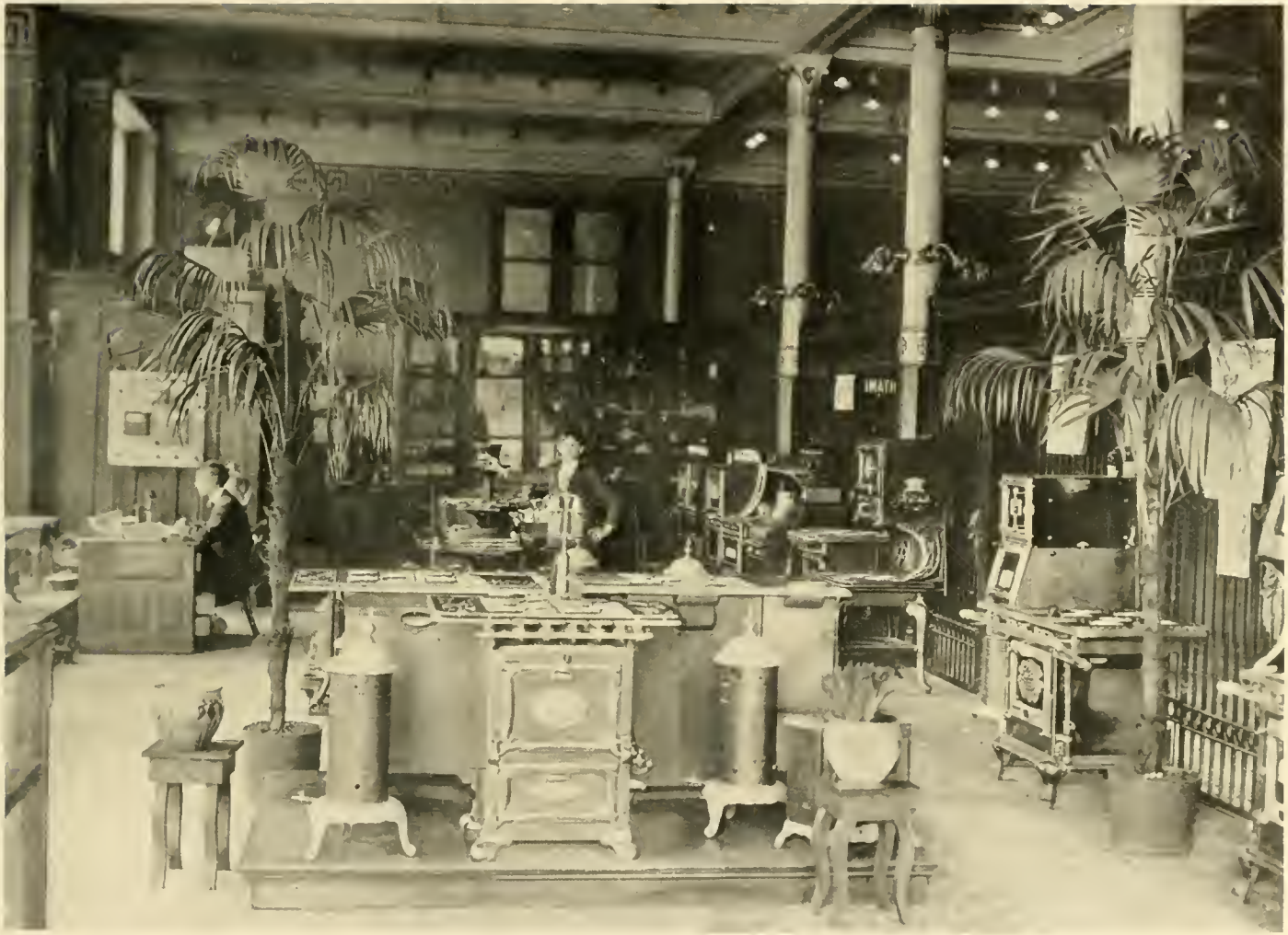
THE HEART

BIRMINGHAM

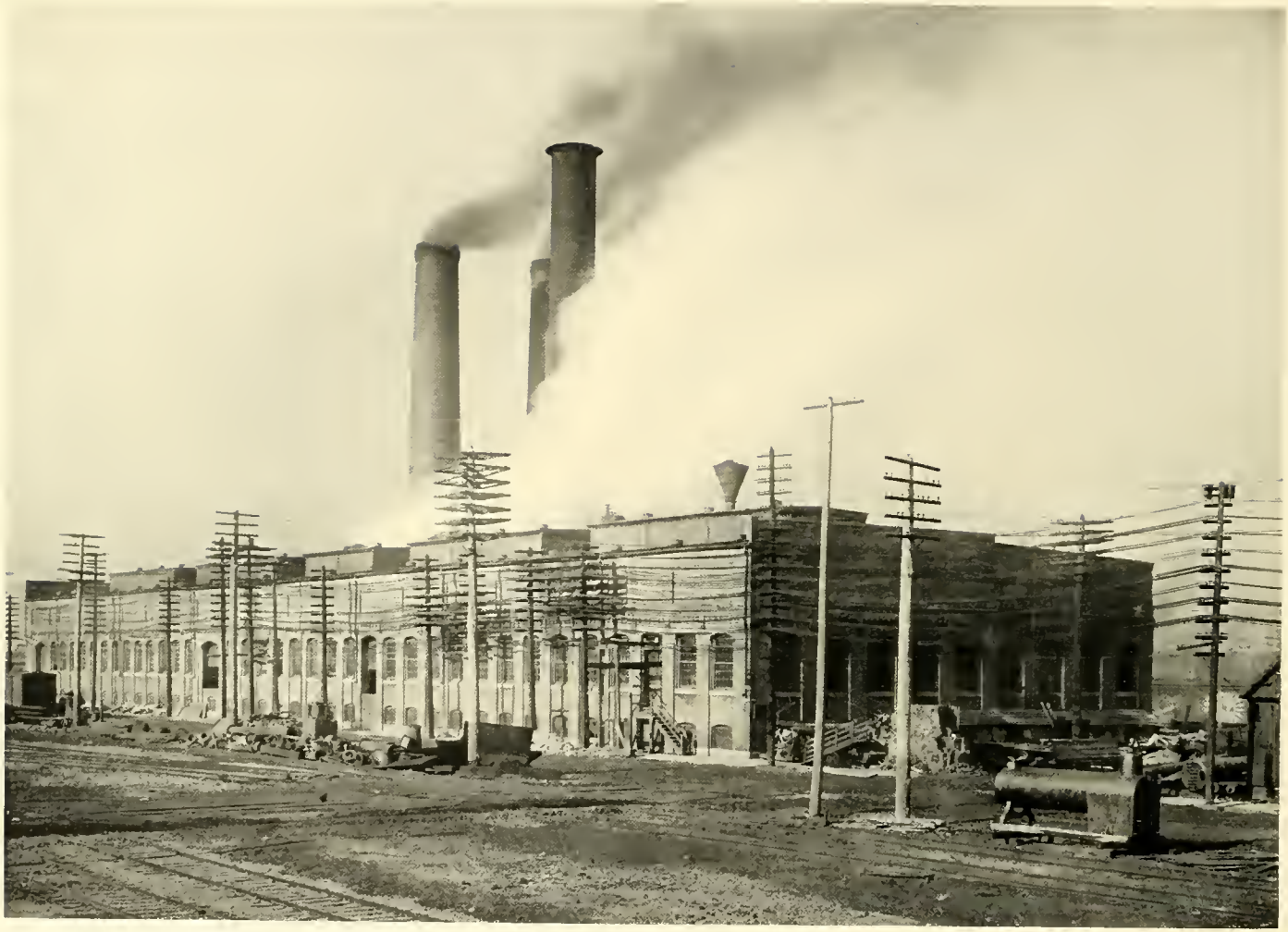
PHOTOGRAPH OF DRAWING OF TERRACE COURT APARTMENTS

RESIDENCE OF JAMES WEISEL, FAIRVIEW CIRCLE

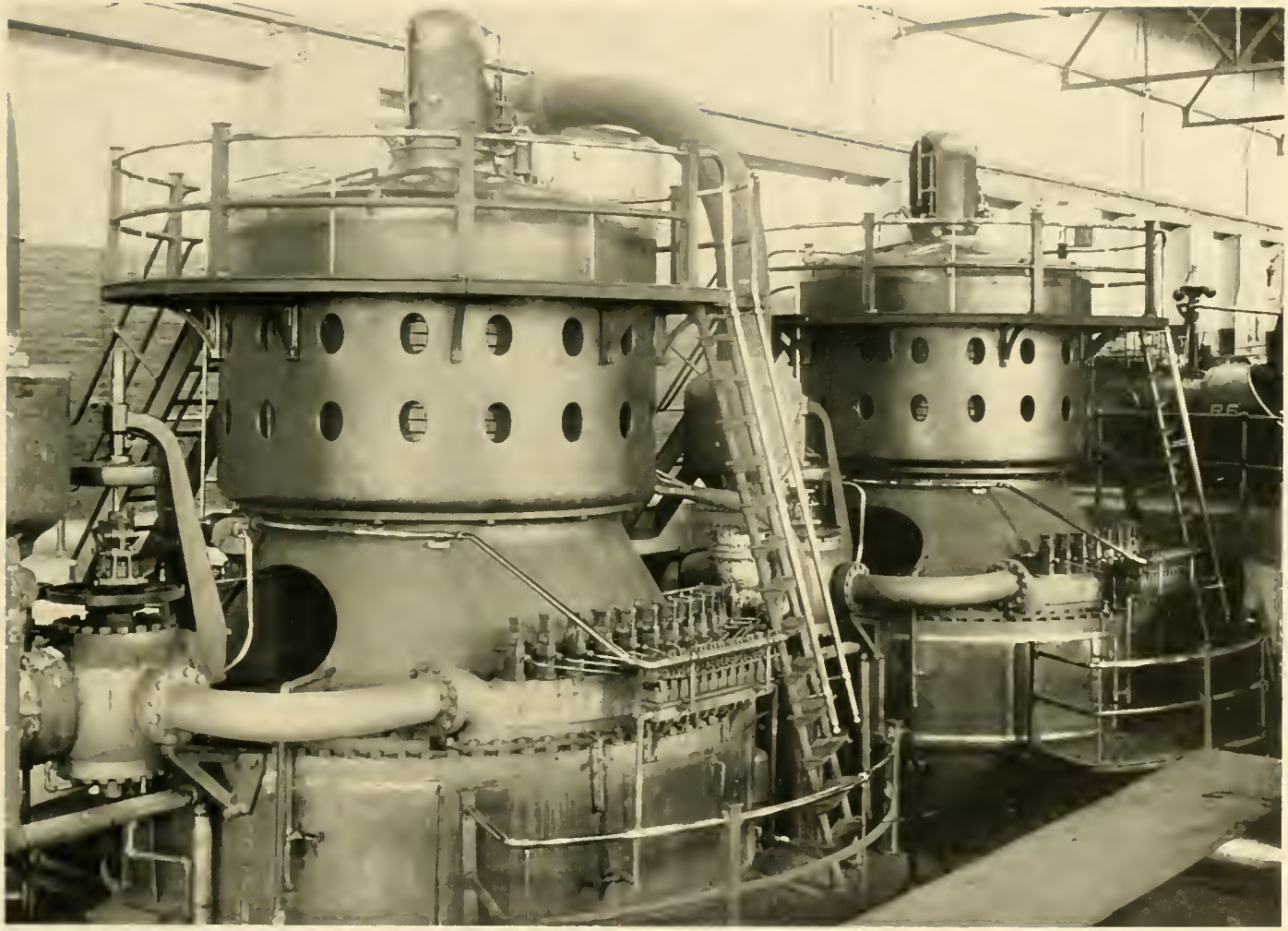
BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., GENERAL OFFICE, CORNER FIRST AVENUE AND 21ST STREET



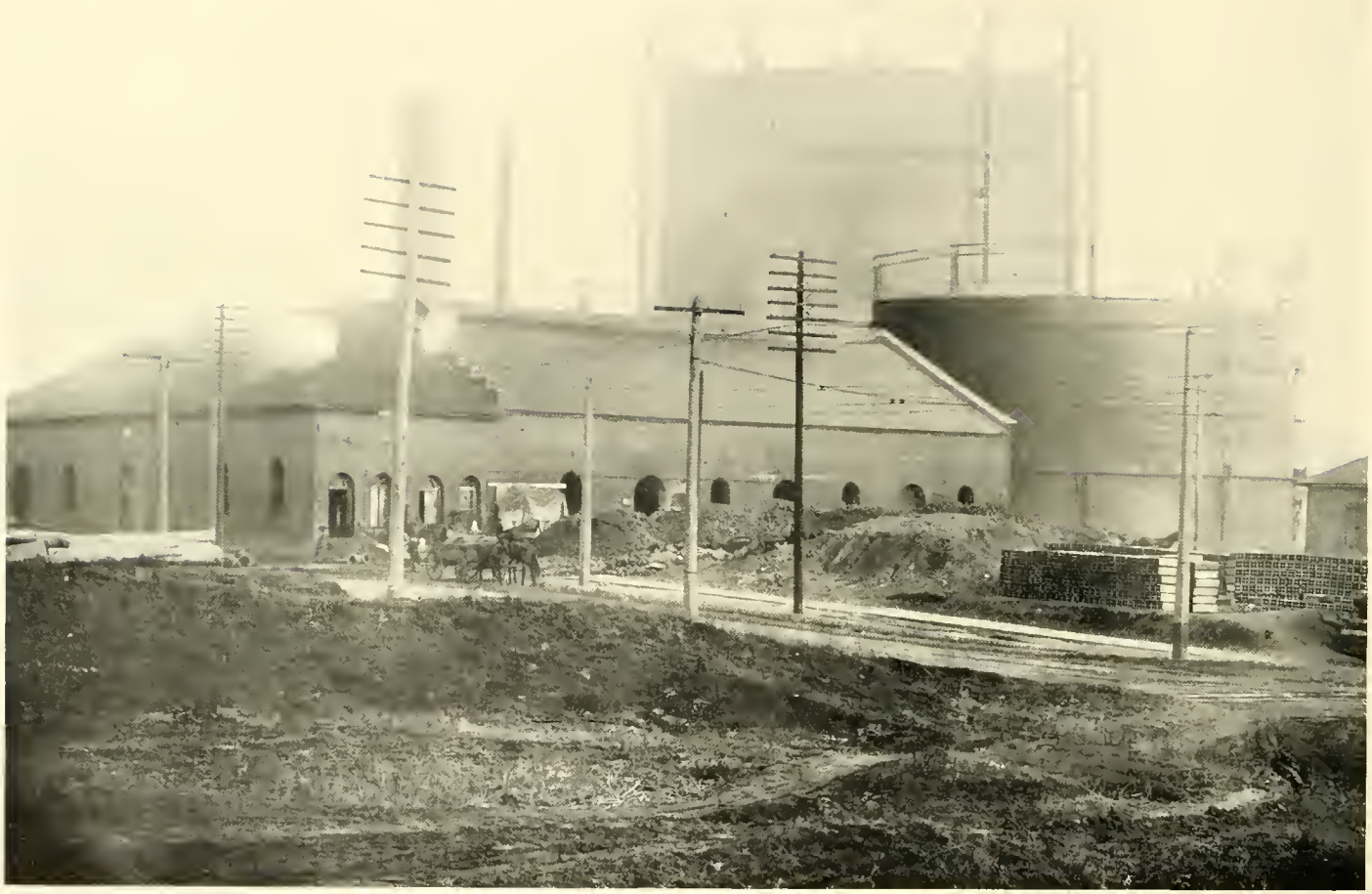
BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., SALESROOM GAS AND ELECTRIC APPLIANCES



POWER HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., POWELL AVENUE, 18TH TO 19TH STREETS



BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., TWO NEW STEAM TURBINE GENERATORS, EACH OF 3,000 K. W. CAPACITY



GAS PLANT, BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., THIRD AVENUE AND 13TH STREET

FREIGHT AND EXPRESS TRAIN, BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO.

BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., FREIGHT HOUSE AND SUB-STATION AT ENSLEY, ALA.

BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., SEMI-CONVERTIBLE, 4-MOTOR CAR

NORTH BESSEMER LINE, BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT & POWER CO., NEAR FAIRVIEW

EAST LAKE

ENTRANCE TO A RED ORE MINE. SLOPE No. 10, RED MOUNTAIN. (U. S. STEEL CORPORATION)

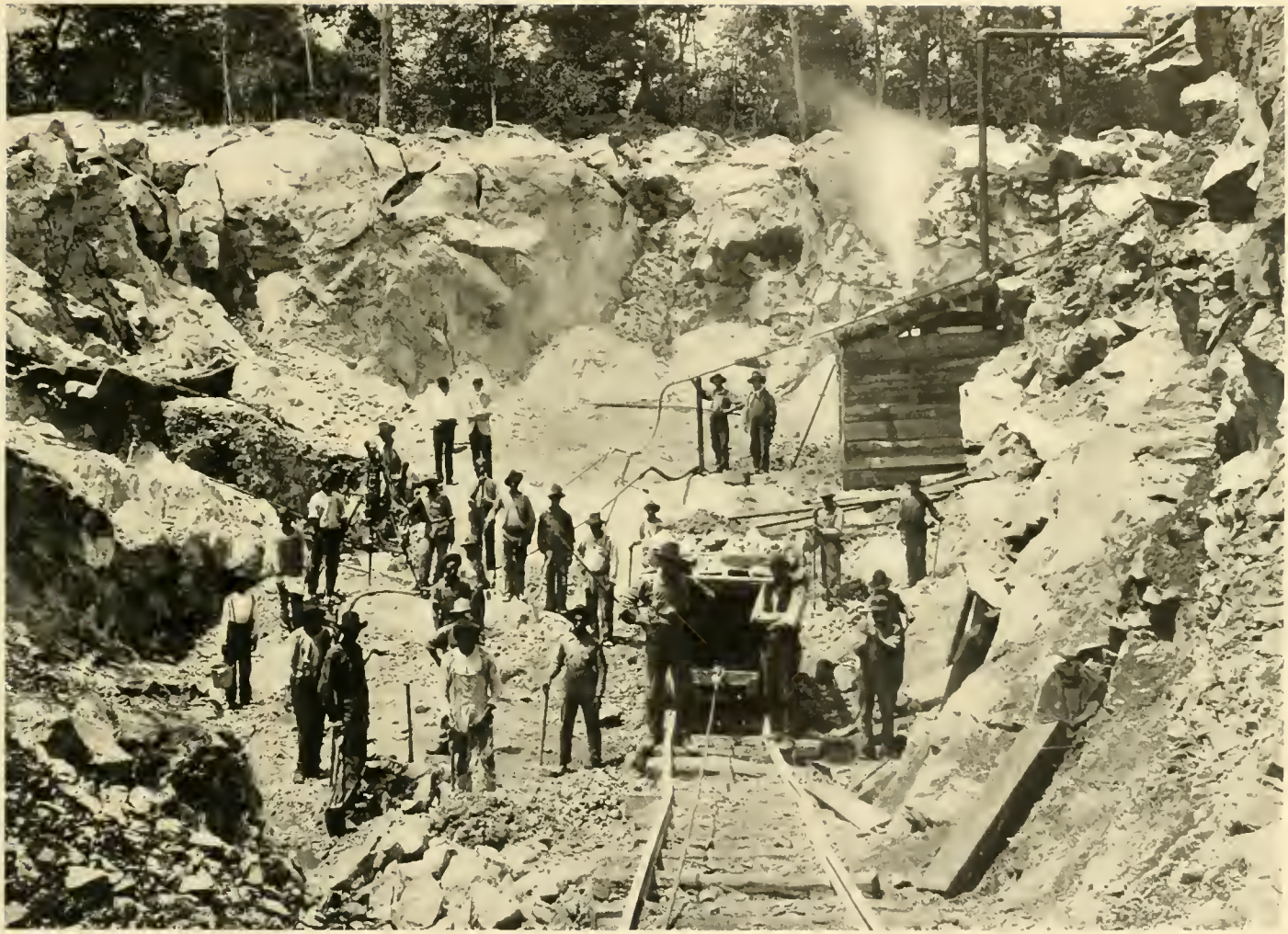
SLOPE IN WARNER COAL MINES, REPUBLIC, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.

BROWN ORE. (ALABAMA CONSOLIDATED COAL AND IRON CO.)

ELECTRIC TRAM IN TUNNEL, WARNER COAL MINES

Showing pockets on sides from which coal is dumped into cars. These are the outlets of chutes leading from the mine proper.

IRON ORE OUTCROP, 22 FEET, ON RED MOUNTAIN, OVERLOOKING BIRMINGHAM



LIMESTONE QUARRY

WHITE MARBLE QUARRY. (TALLADEGA COUNTY)

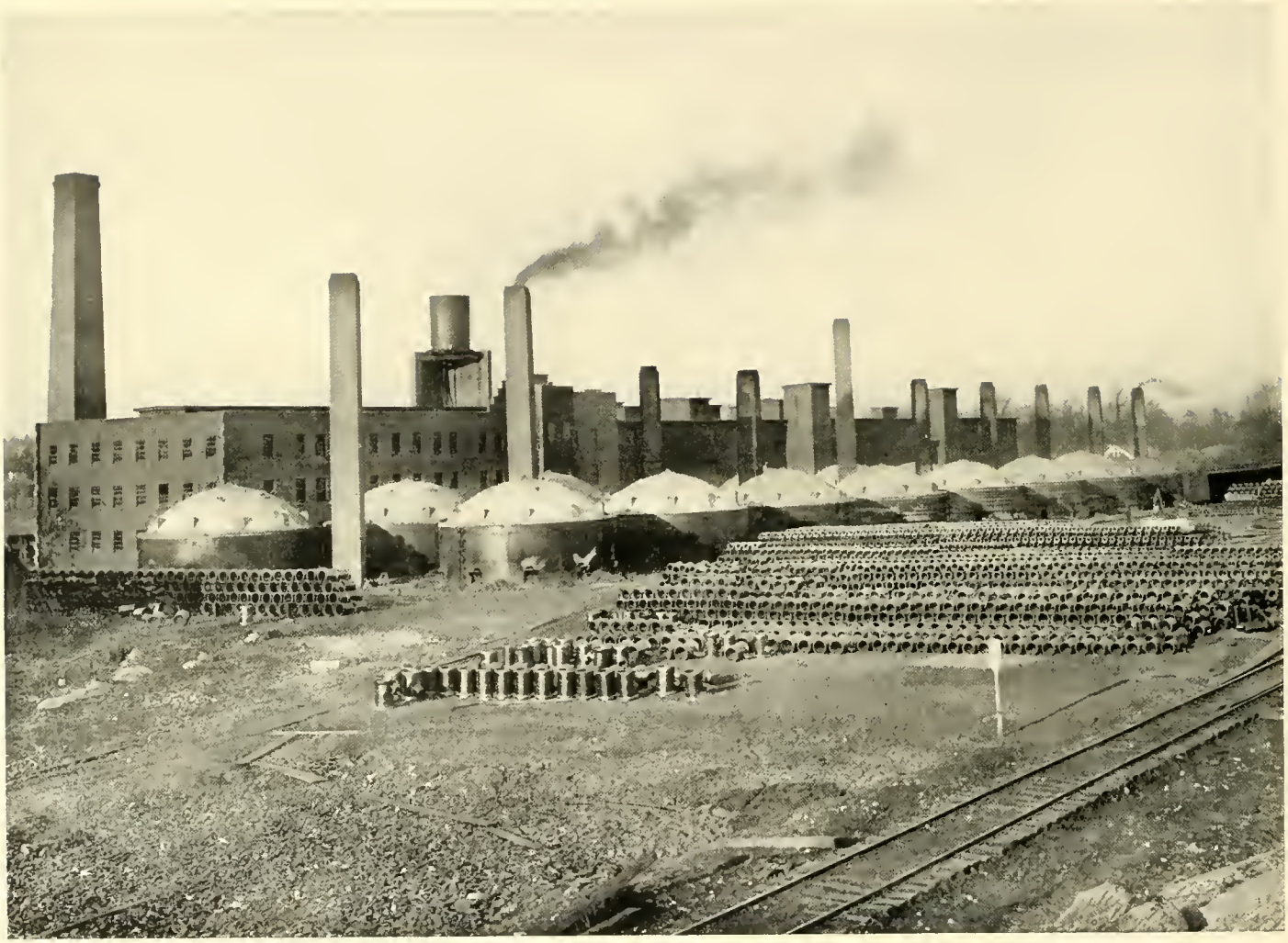
COKE OVENS

ENSLEY IRON FURNACES, TENNESSEE COAL, IRON & RAILROAD CO. (U. S. STEEL CORPORATION)

STEEL MILL AND FURNACES, TENNESSEE COAL, IRON & RAILROAD CO. (U. S. STEEL CORPORATION), ENSLEY, ALA.

STEEL PLANT, TENNESSEE COAL, IRON & RAILROAD CO. (U. S. STEEL CORPORATION), ENSLEY, ALA.

IRON FURNACES, SLOSS-SHEFFIELD STEEL & IRON CO., NORTH BIRMINGHAM



SOUTHERN SEWER PIPE CO.'S PLANT, NORTH BIRMINGHAM

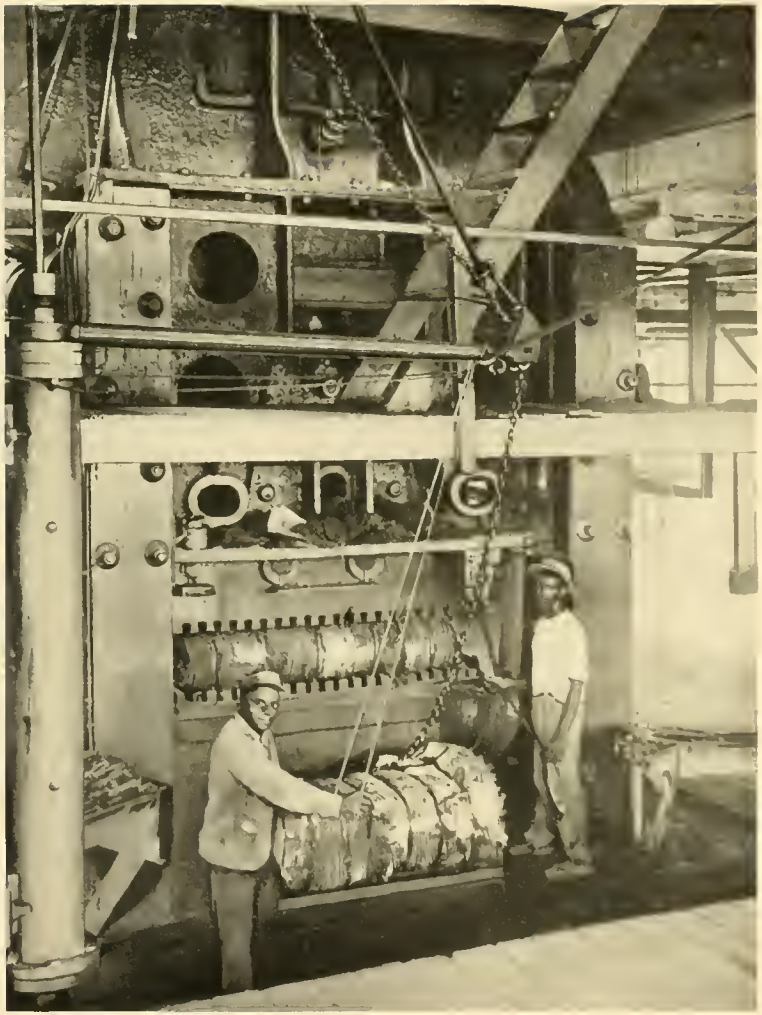
WOODWARD IRON CO.'S FURNACES, WOODWARD, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.

STEPHENSON SHALE BRICK CO.'S PLANT, LOVICK, JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALA.

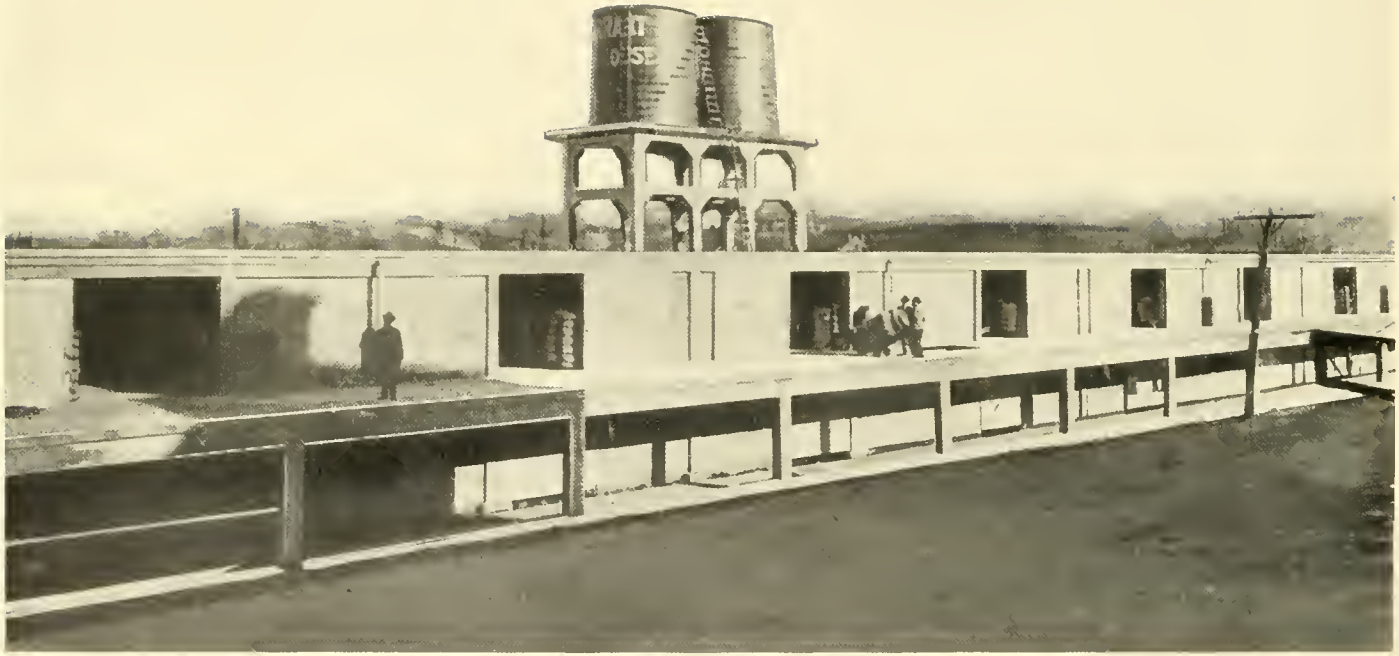
AVONDALE COTTON MILLS, FIRST AVENUE AND 39TH STREET

PICKING COTTON

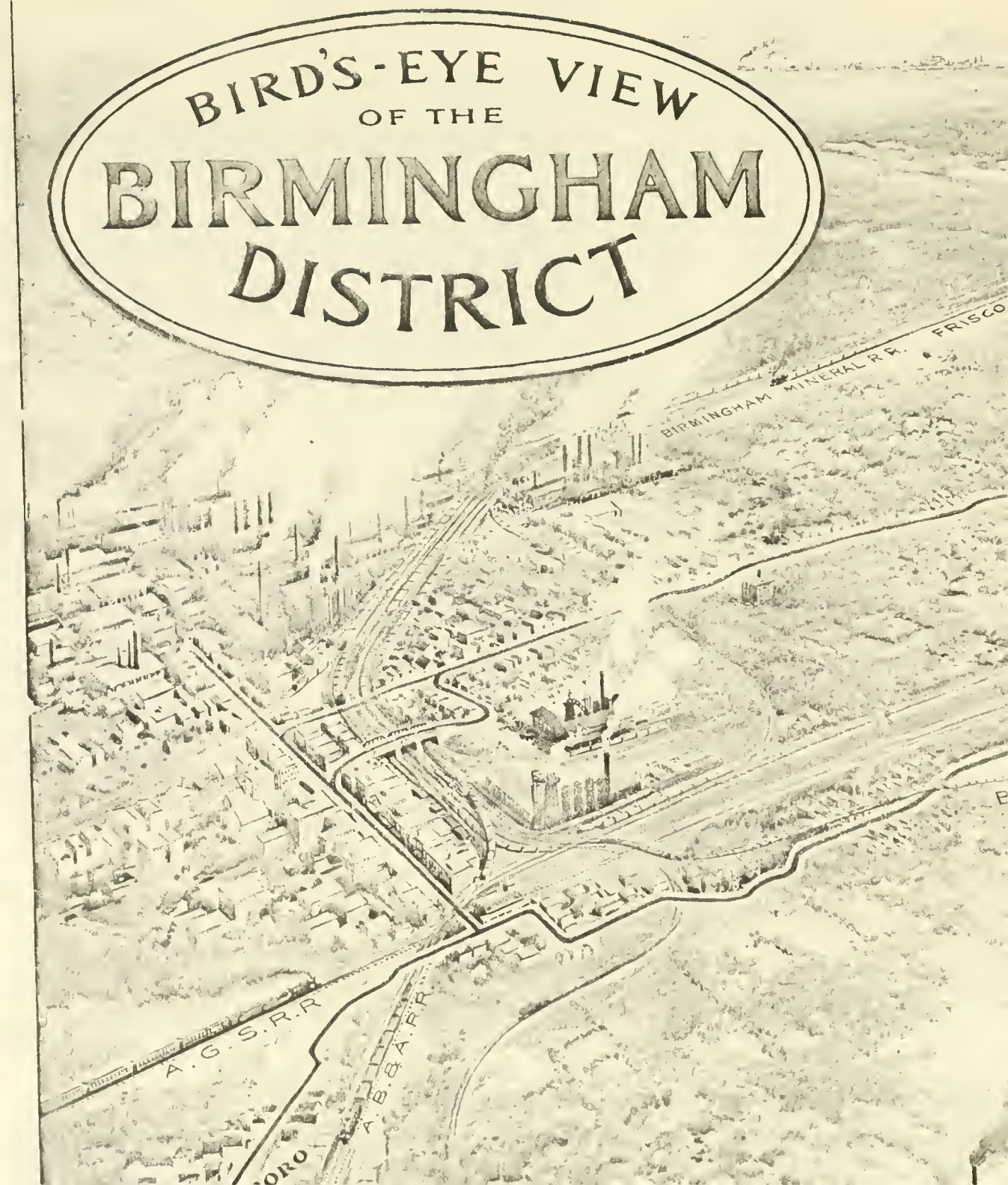
COTTON COMPRESS OF 50 YEARS AGO



MODERN COTTON COMPRESS



COTTON WARRANT WAREHOUSE


BIRD'S-EYE VIEW
OF THE
BIRMINGHAM
DISTRICT
BIRMINGHAM MINERAL R.R.
FRISCO
A.G.S.R.R
A.G.S.R.R

FRISCO SYSTEM
THERN RY
FAIR GROUNDS
A. B. & A. R. R.
A. G. S. R. R.
WEST END
POWDERLY
GRASSELLI
M MINERAL R. R.

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES OF BIRMINGHAM

Queen & Crescent System,
Seaboard Air Line,
Louisville & Nashville R. R.,
Southern Railway,
St. Louis & San Francisco R. R.,
Central of Georgia R. R.,
Birmingham Southern R. R.,
Belt Railway,
Illinois Central R. R.,
Mobile & Ohio R. R.

The Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic R. R. is nearing completion.

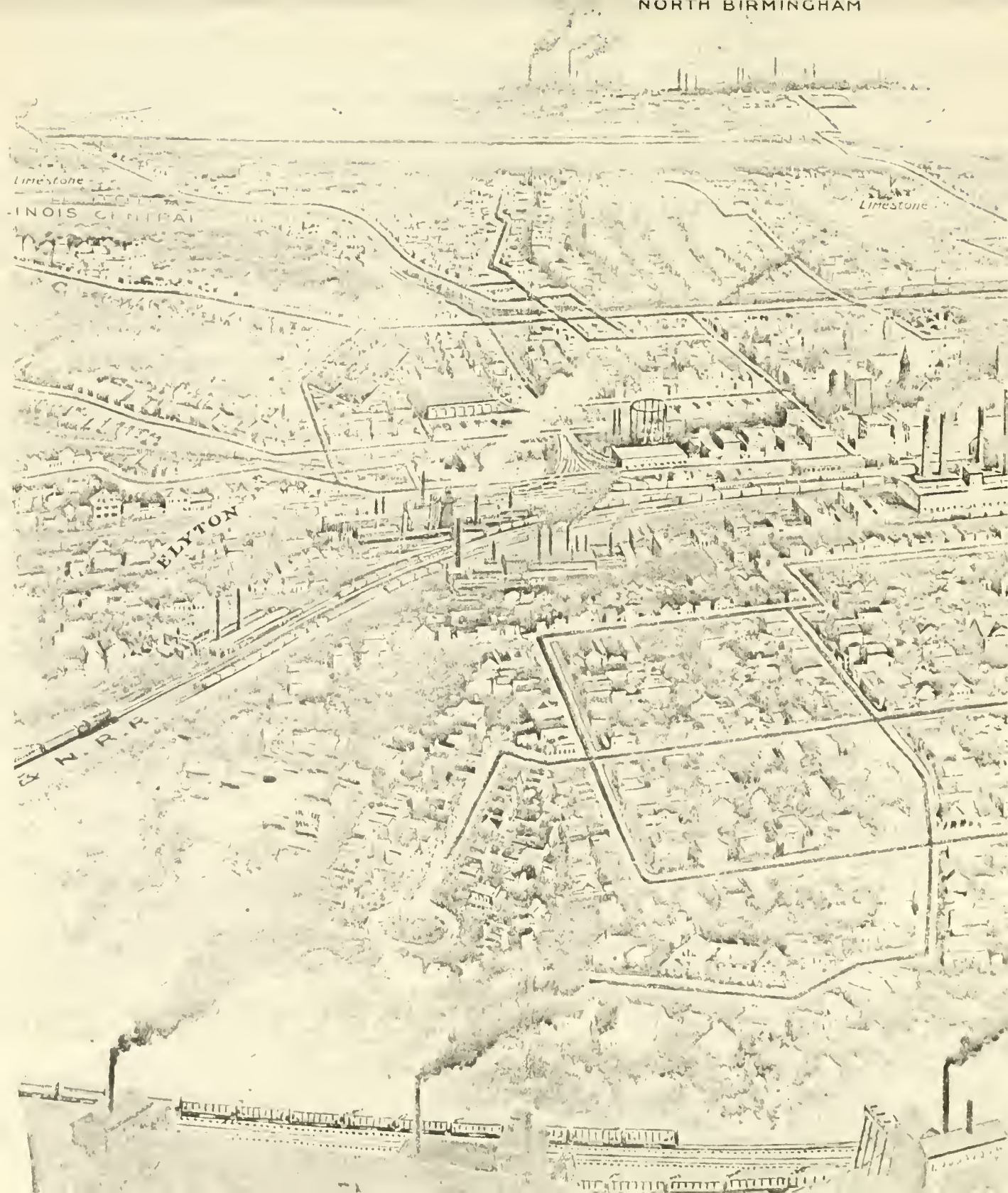
The tonnage of the Birmingham district is more than the entire tonnage of the State of Georgia, and is eight times the tonnage of the cotton crop of Alabama.

The new terminal passenger station, about completed, will cost over $1,000,000 and will be 720 feet long, with ten tracks covering twelve and one-half acres, accommodating a daily arrival of forty-four passenger trains. All the roads entering the city will use the terminal station, with the exception of the Louisville & Nashville.

THESE PLANTS ARE ALL IN BIRMINGHAM AND JEFFERSON COUNTY

	Valued at
Steel Mills, Furnaces, and Rolling Mills (employing 7,440 men, average per day, wages per month, $466,750),	$18,500,000
10 Iron Pipe Works (employing 2,916 men, wages per year, $1,046,000),	2,375,000
6 Quarries (employing 805 men, wages per month, $23,500),	
3 Cement Plants (employing 1,500 men, wages per month, $60,000),	2,000,000
3 Cotton Mills (employing 694 men, wages per year, $185,000),	760,000
8 Cotton Compressors and Warehouses (employing 150 men, wages per month, $5,000),	300,000
3 Fertilizer Plants (employing 550 men, wages per month, $12,000),	725,000
23 Machine Shops and Foundries (employing 980 men, wages per month, $58,000),	1,600,000
16 Brick Plants (employing 1,623 men, wages per month, $73,635),	1,750,000
287 Varied Industries (employing 17,600 men, wages per month, $71,335),	
Total value of properties (not including coal, ore mines, and quarries),	74,325,000

Total men employed, 52,166; wages per year, $37,169,110.


NORTH BIRMINGHAM
Limestone
Limestone
ELYTON

steel rails made, and convincing proof of this statement is found in the fact that the Birmingham rail commands a dollar more a ton on the open market than the Pittsburg rail. Another steel plant, representing an investment of millions of dollars and to afford employment to thousands of men, is now in the course of erection.

Birmingham has an immense jobbing trade, the volume of which has grown in ten years from nothing to $60,000,000 per annum. Fifteen hundred traveling salesmen reside in Birmingham.

Birmingham, with her cheap fuel and abundance of raw material, representing an investment of over $100,000,000, having an annual output of $85,000,000, affords a most inviting field to the manufacturer.

Birmingham's local industries now consume all the steel and about 40 per cent. of the pig iron made in the district, and find a ready market for more than they can produce.

Birmingham is the distributing point of the South of a large portion of the yellow pine. It is the center of the lumber trade of Alabama, the volume of which is equal in value to that of the production of coal and iron.

Birmingham is surrounded by fertile lands and is one of the greatest produce and live stock markets in the South.

Birmingham handles annually 125,000 bales of cotton.

Birmingham has inexhaustible cement resources.

Birmingham district has the finest clays from which are produced bricks of every variety, fireproofing, terra cotta, pottery, and pipes.

Birmingham's post-office received in the year 1907, $413,035.41; handled in the money order department, $4,160,752.95, and paid out in wages to 141 employees, including rural carriers, $799,251.59.

Birmingham spent on improvements to its municipal and industrial properties in the year ending May 1, 1908, $18,090,535. 198 new corporations were organized with a capital stock of $7,465,100, and the capital stock of old corporations increased $1,607,500. Within the same period there were recorded 10,475 warranty deeds conveying property valued at $12,766,332.

Birmingham district built 3,115 new houses within the year ending May 1, 1908. It has five steel-construction office buildings. Another one is under construction which will have a greater area than any other office building south of St. Louis.

Birmingham expends approximately $90,000 per annum for street improvements.

Birmingham's municipal assets are valued (1907) at $5,407,080.87, being $2,383,143.75 in excess of its liabilities.

Birmingham's tax valuation has increased from $20,119,381 in 1903 to $33,500,000 in 1908.

Birmingham pays one-sixth of the State's taxes. The tax rate is $10 per $1,000.

Birmingham is a Convention city. Eighteen important conventions were held there in the year 1907.

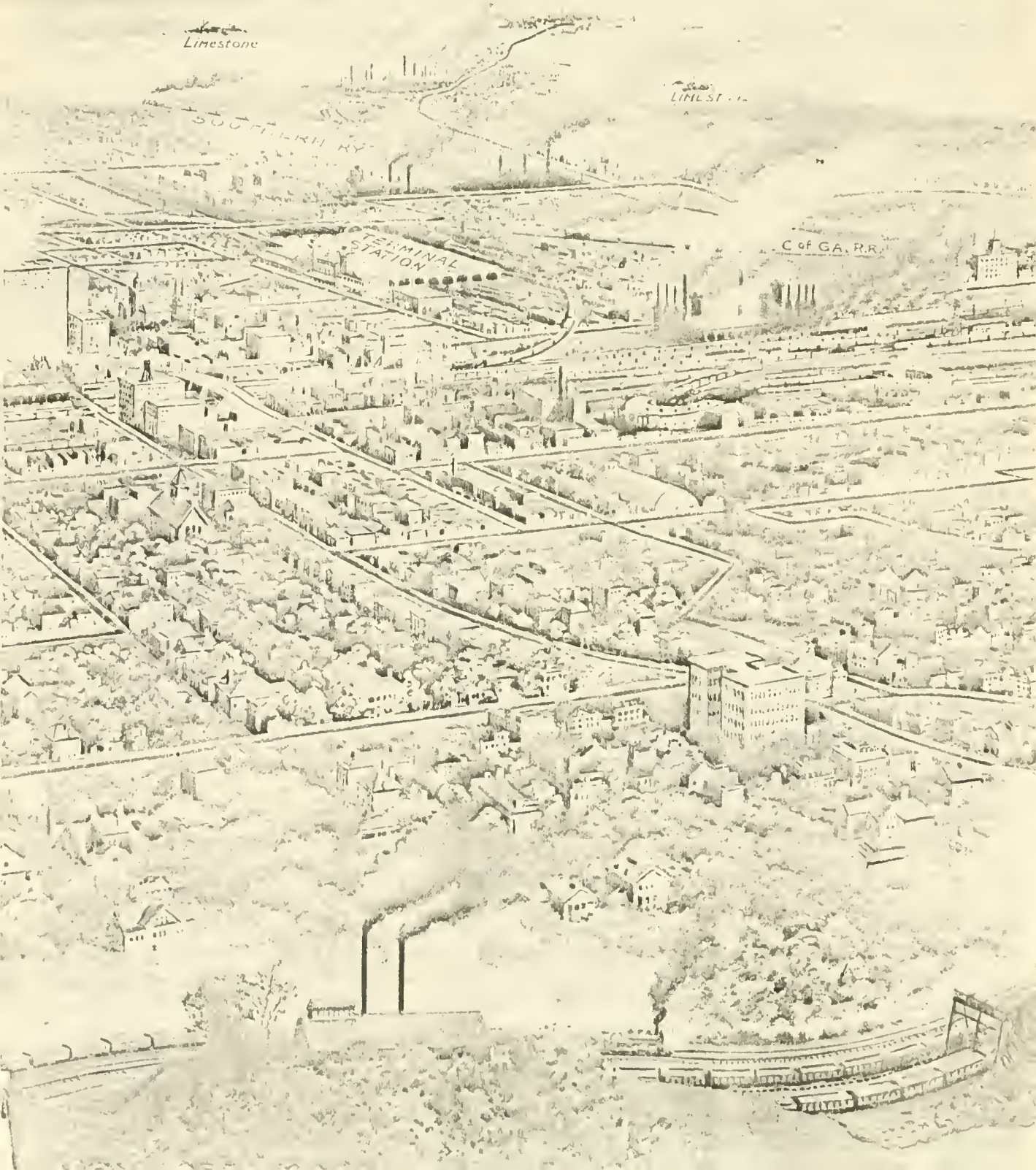
Birmingham is the county seat of Jefferson County, which, in 1900, had a population of 140,000 and now contains about 226,000, an increase of sixty per cent. It has an area of 960 square miles.

Jefferson County had (January 1, 1907) 1,500 miles of public roads, 325 miles of which were graded and macadamized. Its tax assessment in 1907 was $71,444,415. In 1900, it was $34,712,669.

Jefferson County has 118 steel bridges, twenty-five of which have been constructed within three years.

EXTRACT FROM BIRMINGHAM NEWSPAPER REGARDING BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY, LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

"There is not a more potent factor in the development of this city and district than this great system of Street Railway, Light and Power facilities. It reaches in every direction and wherever it touches it brings forth wealth and general development. Every year its lines are extended and its equipment improved to meet new demand. The heavy steel rails and splendid roadbed and cars afford rapid transit, and have linked the cities and villages of this valley in a bond of unity already establishing Greater Birmingham more completely than legislation could do it. The company operates freight and express service locally, and on through way bills from outside points; the management of this department being the same as that of first-class railroads. From several street railway companies and several electric and gas lighting companies operating separately and poorly managed, the masterful hand and millions of dollars of a new management consolidated them all into one, brought order out of chaos, discarded old things and put in new, and gave to Birmingham the splendid utilities which are proving the inviting card to the investor and visitor who comes within our gates."


Limestone
TERMINAL STATION
C of GA. R.R.

GROWTH OF BIRMINGHAM SHOWN BY INCREASE IN BANK DEPOSITS —MAY 1st

1900,	$ 7,006,204
1904,	12,874,364
1908,	18,743,910

Birmingham has eleven banks whose clearings in 1907 were $113,769,357. One of these banks has a capital of $1,000,000 surplus and undivided profits, $649,000; deposits of over $7,500,000, and it owns a ten-story office building.

GROWTH OF BIRMINGHAM SHOWN BY INCREASED STREET CAR TRAFFIC

Year	Passengers
1902,	14,374,203
1904,	19,660,207
1907,	35,600,101

The company operating the street railway system of the district is one of the most progressive in the South. It has 133 miles of track; 294 cars, and employs 1,600 men.

The city has a splendidly conducted electric lighting and power and gas service. The company has 7,505 patrons in the electric department, and 5,763 customers in the gas department, and is constantly extending its service to meet the growth of the community.

INVESTING MILLIONS

Millions of dollars are being invested in the Birmingham district. It is authoritively stated that the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, recently acquired by the United States Steel Corporation, will spend $30,000,000 to $40,000,000 in the development of its properties. The Alabama Consolidated Coal and Iron Company has likewise projected expenditures of millions. Men and money from every section are turning to Birmingham to grasp the opportunities awaiting those who seek.

The Manufacturers' Record, in discussing the recent purchase by the Harriman roads of 150,000 tons of steel rails from the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, says:

"This is the most important movement ever made so far as its world-wide influence is concerned, in attracting attention to the iron and steel interests of Alabama. For many years it was claimed by the Northern iron people that Birmingham would be confined to the making of pig iron. Now that the world has come to recognize the superiority of the basic rail over the Bessemer rail, and that the success of the basic rail mill in Birmingham has been followed by the building of a great basic plant at Bethlehem, and by the United States Steel Corporation in building its $75,000,000 steel plant at Gary, Ind., all question as to the future development of the Southern steel industry has been settled. It is now a matter only of energy and money to bring about a vast development in the basic steel industry in the South, rivaling the steel interests in the Pittsburg and Chicago districts."

MILLION PEOPLE FOR BIRMINGHAM

A prominent individual connected with the iron industry recently said: "The four largest cities in the South are New Orleans, Memphis, Birmingham, and Atlanta, in the order named. I believe, however, that by 1920, Birmingham will be largest of them all. I see no reason why Birmingham should not have 1,000,000 people twenty years hence. It will certainly be the largest city in America not on navigable waters.

"Pittsburg, or what is practically Pittsburg, being Pittsburg and vicinity, has a population of over 1,000,000 people. If Mr. Andrew Carnegie had started out in Birmingham instead of Pittsburg, Birmingham would to-day be the iron and steel center of America, instead of Pittsburg."

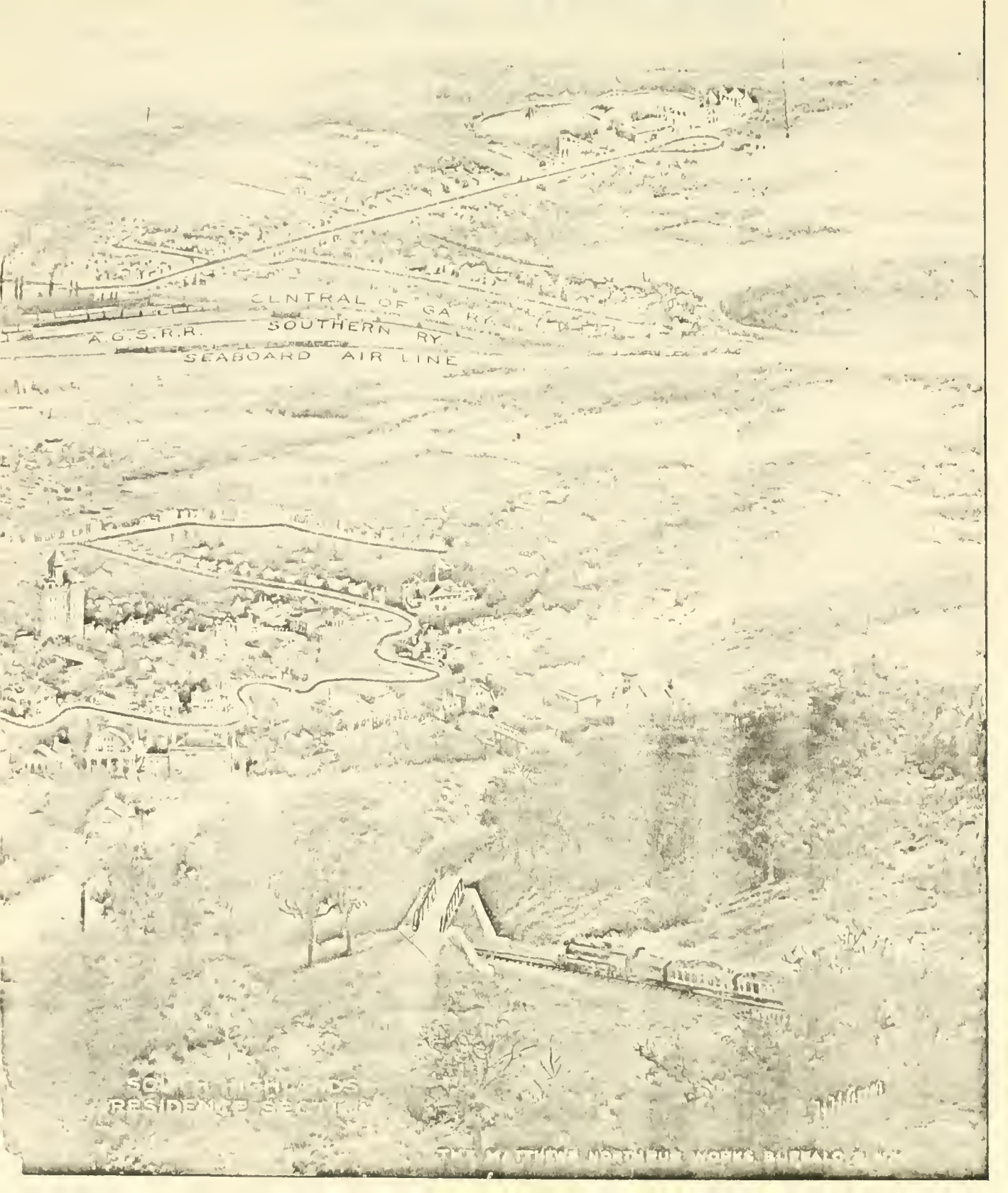
BRIEFLY STATED FACTS ABOUT BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham is the center of vast fields of coal, covering 8,610 square miles and containing 2,000,000,000 tons of coking, steam, and domestic coal and 1,075,000,000 tons of iron ore, which produced in 1907, 14,417,863 tons of coal, 45% of which was consumed in Alabama; 3,096,722 tons of coke, and 1,686,674 tons of pig iron. It has the largest supply of iron ore in the world.

The Birmingham district has thirty-eight out of a total of fifty-nine iron smelters in Alabama, and fifty-one blast furnaces, which are making iron $2 to $3 more cheaply than it could be made elsewhere — hence the saying, "Birmingham fixes the price of pig iron for the world." Birmingham is the fourth in production of iron in the *world.* It smelts 2,500 tons of iron daily.

No panic, nor failure of crops, nor national adversity can rob it of its preëminence in the most important of its industries.

Even more startling has been the advance made in the manufacture of steel. The steel mills are turning out the best


CENTRAL OF GA RY.
A.G.S.R.R.
SOUTHERN RY.
SEABOARD AIR LINE

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

IN a broad sense, the Birmingham District has come to mean all of mineral Alabama, described by a circle having a radius of seventy miles, while the "Birmingham District Proper" includes Jefferson County and the mineral fields of the counties bounding it. The term as herein used applies to the immediate industrial district, comprising about 100 square miles, containing twenty-five cities and towns, among which are the following: Avondale, Adamsville, Birmingham, Bessemer, Brighton, Brookside, Cardiff, East Lake, Elyton, Ensley, Graymont, Jonesboro, North Birmingham, Pratt City, Pinckney City, Warrior, Woodlawn, West End, and Wylam, and the following well-populated sections not incorporated: East Birmingham, Fairview, Gate City, Irondale, Leeds, Morris, Thomas, Kingston, Woodsdale, Rosedale, Powderly, and Blossburg.

ALABAMA'S RICH RESOURCES

There are three things in which Alabama has no equal in the United States: She stands first in natural resources, cheapness of labor, accessibility of raw materials; she stands second in production of coke; she stands third in production of ore; she stands fourth in production of pig iron.

Alabama can thus make iron and steel more cheaply than they can be made elsewhere.

On the top of Red Mountain near Birmingham one may stand on a vein of iron ore twenty-four feet thick. On the right are the great Warrior Coal Fields, and on the left the Coosa and Cahaba Coal Fields. In front are the valleys containing enough limestone to flux all of the ore in the world, and on whose surface are the corn and cotton fields which supply the laborers with food and clothing. At one furnace it would be quite possible to stand on the water tower and with a rifle send a bullet into the ore mines and with a revolver send a bullet to the limestone quarries and be within a stone's throw of the coke ovens. There are few furnaces that are more than ten miles from the raw material.

ALABAMA'S PRODUCTION OF COAL, COKE, AND IRON—1870 TO 1906

Year	Tons Coal	Tons Coke	Tons Pig Iron
1870, ...	13,200	. . . . .	. . . . .
1872, ...	16,800	. . . . .	11,171
1880, ...	380,000	60,781	68,925
1890, ...	4,090,409	1,072,942	816,911
1900, ...	8,273,362	2,110,837	1,184,337
1906, ...	12,851,775	3,217,068	1,674,848
Total 1870 to 1906,	149,836,052	34,730,666	21,494,709

The following is an editorial of the *Manufacturers' Record:*

The late Edward Atkinson, in an article written some years ago, said:

"That country or that section of country which can produce iron and steel at the lowest cost will dominate and control the commerce of the world."

It is universally accepted to-day that the natural conditions of the Birmingham District give the right to claim preëminence in the possibility of making iron and steel at a lower cost than any other section of this or any other country.

We are accustomed to-day to think of the limitless wealth of the iron and steel makers of the Pittsburg district, of the vast fortunes which have been created out of iron and steel and coal, and in contrasting these wonderful conditions with the comparatively slower growth in Alabama we have forgotten the long years of struggle before this marvelous success was achieved by the industry in Pennsylvania. Only a little more than a quarter of a century ago, or in 1880, Pennsylvania was making just about as much pig iron as Alabama is to-day, but the infant of that day has grown to be the giant of to-day.

Considering the natural resources of the Birmingham District, the tremendous momentum of the world's iron and steel development, the world-wide activity in business and the opening up of every nation under the sun to Western civilization and to the uses of iron and steel, it ought to be entirely possible for the Alabama district to accomplish within the next fifteen or twenty years what Pennsylvania has accomplished in twenty-five years. It is scarcely more than fifteen years since the active development of the Missabe District came about, and in that period we have seen the iron ores of that district, which, fifteen years ago, were practically unknown and without value, become the center of the world's most marvelous mining activities and reach a valuation accepted by the world as conservative when placed at $1 a ton in the ground. The conditions in Alabama are in many respects far more promising for vast expansion in iron and steel development and in the increase in the value of coal and iron properties than could possibly have been foreseen of the Missabe District fifteen years ago.

Turn from iron, consider the increasing value of coal properties with which Alabama has been so abundantly blessed. Recently a thousand acres of coal land in the Connellsville District of Pennsylvania sold for $2,000 an acre, or a total of $2,000,000. Other lands there cannot be bought at $2,500 an acre. The price which Connellsville coal land commands is an indication of the advance which must be seen in the coal properties of Alabama.

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